IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 5 to 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~for issuing an installation key to a software user for installing~~ allowing a user to install software on a computer, comprising the steps of:

~~a user~~ notifying a sales company of ~~the user's~~ ID information of the user;

communicating the notified ID information of the user from ~~said~~ the sales company to an authorizing agency to request a confirmation of legitimacy of the user having notified ~~said~~ the ID information;

confirming the legitimacy of ~~said~~ the user in ~~said~~ the authorizing agency in accordance with the ~~said~~ notified ID information to communicate a result of the confirmation to said sales company; ~~and~~

producing, in ~~said~~ the sales company, ~~an~~ a first installation key uniquely corresponding to said user on the basis of said ID information, and issuing ~~said~~ the first installation key to said user if the user is confirmed to be a legitimate user;

allowing the user to input the first installation key and said ID information to an installer;

producing, by the installer, a second installation key from the input ID information to obtain a comparison result by comparing the input first installation key with the produced second installation key; and

- 2 -

installing the software by the installer if the first installation key

corresponds to the second installation key in the comparison result.

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for issuing an installation key~~ according
to Claim 1, wherein said authorizing agency is a credit company, and said ID information
is credit information of said user regarding a credit card issued by said credit company to
said user, and said <u>first</u> installation key is produced in said issuing step by operating a
designated calculation in accordance with said credit information.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for issuing an installation~~ key according
to Claim 2, wherein said credit information contains a credit card number, a card holder's
name, and validity of use, and the designated calculation is operated at least for one of said
credit card number, card holder's name, and validity of use in order to produce said <u>first</u>
installation key.

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for issuing an installation key~~ according
to Claim 2, wherein the sales company further notifies said authorizing agency of a price of
said software, and said authorizing agency confirms the authorized use of the credit card in
accordance with the notified price and a limit set for an amount of use, and informs said
sales company of the result thereof, and said sales company executes said issuing step if
said user is confirmed to be the legitimate user and the use of the credit card is approved.

5. to 9. (Canceled)